

RESPONSE AND REMARKS

In the Office Action, the Examiner issued a restriction requirement. In the Office Action, Claims 1-27, 39-65, 77-103 and 115-141 were construed by the Examiner as Group I, as being drawn to a computer system and method which receives and processes merchandise return requests according to policy rules, classified in class 705, subclass 1. Claims 28-33, 66-71, 104-109 and 142-147 were construed by the Examiner as Group II, as being drawn to a computer system and method which saves a three-dimensional response matrix, classified in Class 705, subclass 1. Claims 34-38, 72-76, 110-114 and 148-152 were construed by the Examiner as Group III, as being drawn to a return computer system which displays a set of return questions and receives answers, and then generates a set of instructions, classified in class 705, subclass 1. Claims 153 and 155 were construed by the Examiner as Group IV, as being drawn to a computer system which receives a request to rate a shipment, classified in class 705, subclass 1. Claims 154, and 156-159 were construed by the Examiner as Group V, as being drawn to a system which receives a request from a second computer system for a return and calculates a plurality of rates, classified in class 705, subclass 1. Claims 160-163 and 167-169 were construed by the Examiner as Group VI, as being drawn to a method of preparing a shipping label, classified in class 705, subclass 1. Claim 164 was construed by the Examiner as Group VII, as being drawn to a computer system programmed to designate a status of a return record, classified in class 705, subclass 1. Claim 165 was construed by the Examiner as Group VIII, as being drawn to a method of obtaining a shipping status, classified in class 705, subclass 1. Claim 166 was construed by the Examiner as Group IX, as being drawn to a computer system which "stores a return record in a database a return record corresponding to a request", classified in class 705, subclass 1.

Pursuant to the formal restriction requirement dated March 25, 2005 and in accordance with 35 U.S.C. 121 and 37 C.F.R. § 1.142, Applicant hereby formally elects for further examination, the invention construed by the Examiner

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as Group I, described by the Examiner as Claims 1-27, 39-65, 77-103 and 115-141; Claims 28-38, 66-76, 104-114, and 142-169 (the "non-elected Claims") corresponding to non-elected Groups II through IX, are withdrawn from examination without prejudice to Applicant's filing in accordance with 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and 121 and 37 C.F.R. § 1.142, during the pendency of the present Application, one or more divisional applications directed to the non-elected Claims.

Respectfully submitted,

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